

Mr. R. Hislop on August 12, 1898, and contained one egg, white in colour, slightly lustrous, the two ends being nearly of a uniform size. It measures 1·44 by 1 inch.

The eggs of all the Australian *Podargi* have now been described.

6. CHESTNUT-BREASTED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis castaneiventris*): Cat. B. xix. p. 274.

This bird I saw on many occasions on the Bloomfield River, near Cooktown, and often heard it uttering its mournful note during the night, and I have also noticed it flying about among the bushes, evidently hunting for nests, but I never saw or heard the Fan-tail Cuckoo (*C. flabelliformis*) in this district. Mr. R. Hislop has sent me a clutch of the eggs of the *Sericormis magnirostris*, in which was deposited the egg of a Cuckoo, which I have little doubt was laid by the *C. castaneiventris*, and which I provisionally describe as such until an opportunity shall occur of seeing the young bird that is hatched from these eggs. The ground-colour is white, with minute freckles of a brownish tint, rather sparsely scattered over the egg, and forming a light zone on the larger end. It is nearly oval in shape, and measures 0·82 by 0·58 inch.

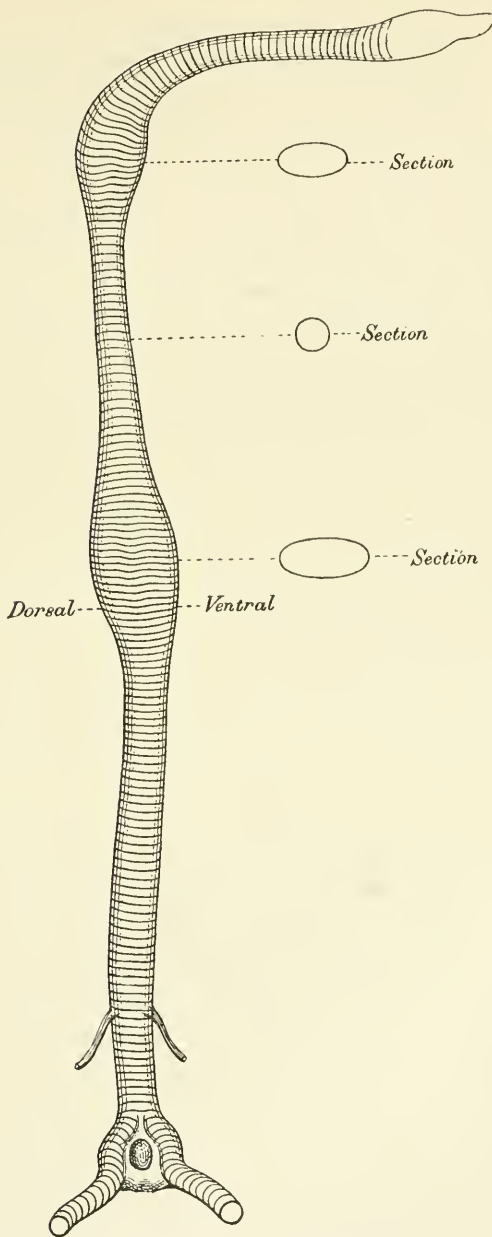
The egg of the *Cacomantis variolosus* (the Square-tailed Cuckoo) has been found on several occasions in the Cooktown district, but always in the dome-shaped nest of the *Glycyphila modesta* (Brown-backed Honey-eater).

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XXX.—On the Trachea of the Freckled Duck of Australia (*Stictonetta nævosa*). By A. J. CAMPBELL.

FOLLOWING a hint given me by Professor Newton, I obtained for Mr. J. J. Ed. Degen, of the Melbourne Museum, some specimens of *Stictonetta nævosa* (Cat. B. xxvii. p. 324) for dissection. I send herewith Mr. Degen's observations on the trachea of this remarkable species, of which the exact systematic position is still uncertain, together with a figure of that organ in the male:—

*Trachea of the Freckled Duck of Australia.*



Trachea of the Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta narosa*, ♂).

“The sketch of the trachea belonging to a male of *Stictonetta nevosa*, which is appended [p. 363], shows that the bony labyrinth, which is asymmetrical in the Common Domestic Drake, is replaced by a slight swelling of the inferior larynx only in the present species, and that the trachea is, moreover, symmetrical.

“So far there is no difference as regards the two sexes. Where the male bird of *Stictonetta nevosa* differs from the female is in the two expansions occurring at irregular distances in the course of the trachea. The upper one is about equidistant from the pharynx proper and the second, while the lower one is placed somewhat higher from the inferior larynx than the first one is from the pharynx. These swellings, when the trachea is *in situ*, are ‘compressed,’ and accordingly, when viewed from the front, are not conspicuous. Viewed in the profile, however, these contours are plainly visible, as is shown in the sketches.

“The trachea of the female bird is more or less cylindrical throughout its entire length.”

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XXXI.—*On a Collection of Birds from the Tanganyika Plateau, in British Central Africa.* By Capt. G. E. SHELLEY, F.Z.S.

(Plates V. & VI.)

As I am kindly informed by Lt.-Col. W. H. Manning, H.B.M. Deputy Commissioner for British Central Africa, the present collection of birds was made during the months of July, August, and September last year by the hunters belonging to the Scientific Staff at Zomba, who were temporarily attached to the Commission for the Delimitation of the Anglo-German Boundary between Lakes Nyasa and Tanganyika. The Commission landed in July at Karonga, about 10° S. lat., and during its stay there some specimens were collected at Mpata, ten miles to the westward. The expedition then travelled due north to Fort Hill, on the Songwe River, which forms a portion of the Anglo-German boundary, and followed the Stevenson Road through the